

**NSC BRIEFING**

**9 October 1957**

**RIOTS IN POLAND**

- I. Polish regime, without making any concessions, has succeeded in restoring order in uneasy Warsaw after five consecutive nights of demonstrations.**
  - A. Potential Budapest was headed off by**
    - 1. Firmness of Gomulka in using police against student rioters.**
    - 2. Failure of working class to support students.**
    - 3. Moderating influence of Cardinal Wyszynski.**
- II. Polish Party has probably been shaken by these events.**
  - A. But Gomulka's personal position within the party has probably been strengthened at least temporarily.**
  - B. His success in preventing a potential Budapest without making concessions to the demonstrators accentuates his indispensable role.**
  - C. Soviets have been silent and no signs that Soviet troops alerted.**
    - 1. Khrushchev in his interview with Reston of New York Times seemed unconcerned about riots and said he was sure Polish leaders would do the right thing for the socialist cause.**
- III. However, forceful suppression of demonstrations will make populace more distrustful of Gomulka--a serious matter in the long run, since popular support has been his best weapon against his Stalinist opponents in party (Natolin faction).**
  - A. Support among students and intellectuals, a major factor in his return last October, has probably been weakened.**

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**IV. Nevertheless, most Poles realize there is still no alternative for Poland to Gomulka's balancing act, and would not like to see him removed.**

**A. Real danger is further popular demoralization. This is already serious factor.**

**B. This could affect production, jeopardize Gomulka's limited but hard won support from West, and weaken his bargaining position vis-a-vis the USSR.**

**C. Further disorders might force him to reinstitute police state.**